

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1992

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, AG

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS: FOREIGN BUSINESS VISITORS

PARIS FOR TRADE CENTER

REF: (A) A-2270, MARCH 15, 1974 (B) STATE 030125

1. THE ALGERIAN NATIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, MUSTAPHA BOUARFA, HAS NOTIFIED EMBASSY OF HIS INTENTION MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S. FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS IN MAY, AND WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO ARRANGE ITINERARY FOR HIM. BOUARFA IS HEAD OF THE COMMISSARIAT NATIONAL A L'INFORMATIQUE, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT CENTRAL EDP AGENCY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING EDP INSTALLATION AND NEEDS FOR THE ENTIRE ALGERIAN ECONOMY.

2. BOUARFA INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING: VISITS TO COMPUTER MANUFACTURING FACILITIES, AS WELL AS PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS. HIS OBJECTIVES ARE:

(1) PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT (2) BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TURN-KEY PROJECTS TO PRODUCE PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT IN ALGERIA, AND (3) TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN TRAINING INCLUDING SENDING ALGERIAN TECHNICIANS TO U.S. FOR TRAINING AND SETTING UP EDP TRAINING PROGRAMS IN

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ALGERIA.

3. BOUARFA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS AND ALSO WANTS TO ATTEND THE 1975 NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, MAY 19-23, 1975 (REFTEL B). BROCHURES AND PERTINENT INFORMATION HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO BOUARFA.

4. BOUARFA HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN FULL INFORMATION AND INVITATIONS FOR THE PARIS TRADE CENTER'S IMPORTANT EDP EXHIBITION AND COLLOQUE TO BE HELD MARCH 18-21. HE AND HIS ORGANIZATION HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS EXHIBIT AND MAY ATTEND. IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS OBTAINED HERE ON POSSIBLE ATTENDEES WE WILL PASS IT TO PTC.

5. LOCAL IBM OFFICE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THIS VISIT AND WOULD LIKE IBM IN U.S. TO PARTICIPATE. EMBOFF HAS CONSULTED WITH IBM PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF IN PARIS AND THEY ANXIOUS TO HAVE IBM US HOST PART OF VISIT. IBM PORTION OF VISIT CAN BE COORDINATED FROM ALGIERS VIA PARIS IF COMMERCE DESIRES.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTS COMMERCE PROPOSE APPROPRIATE ITINERARY FROM MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 30 (APPROXIMATELY) TO INCLUDE NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE MAY 14-23. DATES ARE FLEXIBLE AND COULD POSSIBLY BE MAY 5-24 OR MAY 18-JUNE 6, AS COMMERCE WISHES. IF COMMERCE FEELS TWO WEEKS WOULD BE ADEQUATE PLEASE SO ADVISE.

8. COMMENT: BOUARFA IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE EDP FIELD IN ALGERIA. ALGERIA ALREADY HAS A REASONABLY WELL DEVELOPED COMPUTER CAPABILITY (ABOUT 65 COMPUTERS CURRENTLY INSTALLED AND/OR ABOUT TO BE INSTALLED.) THEY HAVE AMBITONS TO BECOME EDP LEADER IN THIS PART OF WORLD AND APPEAR TO BE GEARING UP TO THIS ROLE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS VISIT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR FUTURE U.S. EDP SALES AND PROJECTS IN ALGERIA AND HOPES EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO COME UP WITH A FIRST CLASS PROGRAM.
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